

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

January 12, 2010

OVERTURNING OF BODY ARMOR BAN FOR CONVICTED FELONS

On December 17th, 2009, the California Court of Appeals overturned a decade old law banning the possession of body armor by violent felons. The California legislature banned felons from having body armor in 1998 after a nationally televised shootout in North Hollywood between Los Angeles police officers and two heavily armed bank robbers who were equipped with ballistic vests. The confrontation left the robbers dead and ten police officers along with five civilians injured.

In response to the Appellate Court decision, the State Attorney General said his office would seek review of the ruling to the Supreme Court. Additionally, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said his office has authored urgency legislation which would reinstate California’s law banning possession of body armor by violent felons.

(MORE)

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOLINA _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors support the Attorney General's and District Attorney's efforts and instruct County Counsel and the CEO to

1. Contact the Attorney General and support his petition with the filing of amicus briefs, if necessary; and
2. Assist the District Attorney's Sacramento effort to seek new legislation to reinstate the ban and use or possession of body armor by convicted felons.

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CG:e